New Trains for Andhra Pradesh

917. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals of South Central Railways to start new trains in Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is large waiting list for all trains starting from Secunderabad; and

(c) how Government propose to meet such a demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Provision of additional travel facilities including introduction of new trains, is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to the avaiability of resources, operational feasibility and traffic justification.

During 1996-97, additional express train services introduced on South Central Railway and serving Andhra Pradesh include:—

1. 2633/2634 Nizamuddin-Madras Rajdhani Express (weekly) via Vijayawada.

2. 9767/9768 Madras-Jaipur Express (weekly) via Vijayawada.

Besides these, MEMU services on Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali-Ongole section and DMU services on Vijayawada-Machilipatnam and Guntur-Repalle sections introduced duriang 1996-97 have also contributed to improved commuter services in these areas of Andhra Pradesh on South Central Railway.

(b) The average waiting list of all trains, originating from Secunderabad, for upper class is 6 and for sleeper class is 60.

(c) This is being cleared by attaching extra coaches, subject to the availability of coaches and room by the trains concerned.

Special Dispensation Admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas

918. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that he had decided on the 13th September, 1996 that special dispensation admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas should continue to the tune of 10 per cent of regular admissions in the preceding year;

(b) if so, whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has not honoured his decision; and

(c) if so, whether Kendriya Vidyalayas are competent therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) It was decided on 13.9.96 that an affidavit be filed in the High Court of Delhi by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan that rules will be formulated as per Prime Minister's directive, for regulating special dispensation admissions. An affidavit has been filed in the Court accordingly.

Japanese Assistance for Afforestation in Gujarat

919. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that assistance has been provided by Japan for afforestation project in Gujarat in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government is also sharing the cost of the project alongwith Japan; and

(d) how much afforestation is likely to be achieved under the project and by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Comprehensive forestry project is under implementation in Gujarat with assistance provided as soft loan from the Government of Japan through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, (OECF). The total cost of the project is Rs. 608.5 crores and about 85 percent of this estimated project cost will be eligible for reimbursement. The project aims at improvement of productivity of forests, wildlife habitat and generating additional income for rural and tribal populations. It is a people oriented project and encourages